

Applicant submits that the instant application properly claims priority in U.S. applications Ser. Nos. 60/190,988, filed March 21, 2000 and 60/195,907, filed April 10, 2000.

Applicant notes that the date of first publication of the Akihiro Japanese patent is June 15, 1999. In the attached Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.131, the applicant (the inventor) has demonstrated that a topical composition corresponding to the claimed composition was reduced to practice prior to the June 15, 1999 publication of Akihiro. Thus, Akihiro is effectively antedated and, consequently, Akihiro is not a proper prior art reference under §103(a). The Office Action's §103(a) rejection is wholly based on the combination of Rouquet et al. in view of Akihiro. As such, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection.

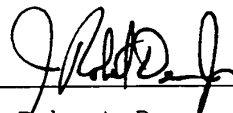
It is respectfully submitted that this is a full and complete response to the outstanding Final Office Action. In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that the claims of the present invention are allowable, and requests that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that the claims of this application be given favorable consideration and passage to allowance.

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Appl Unit 1617

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Respectfully submitted,



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